Design Portfolio- Grace Johnson

#1 

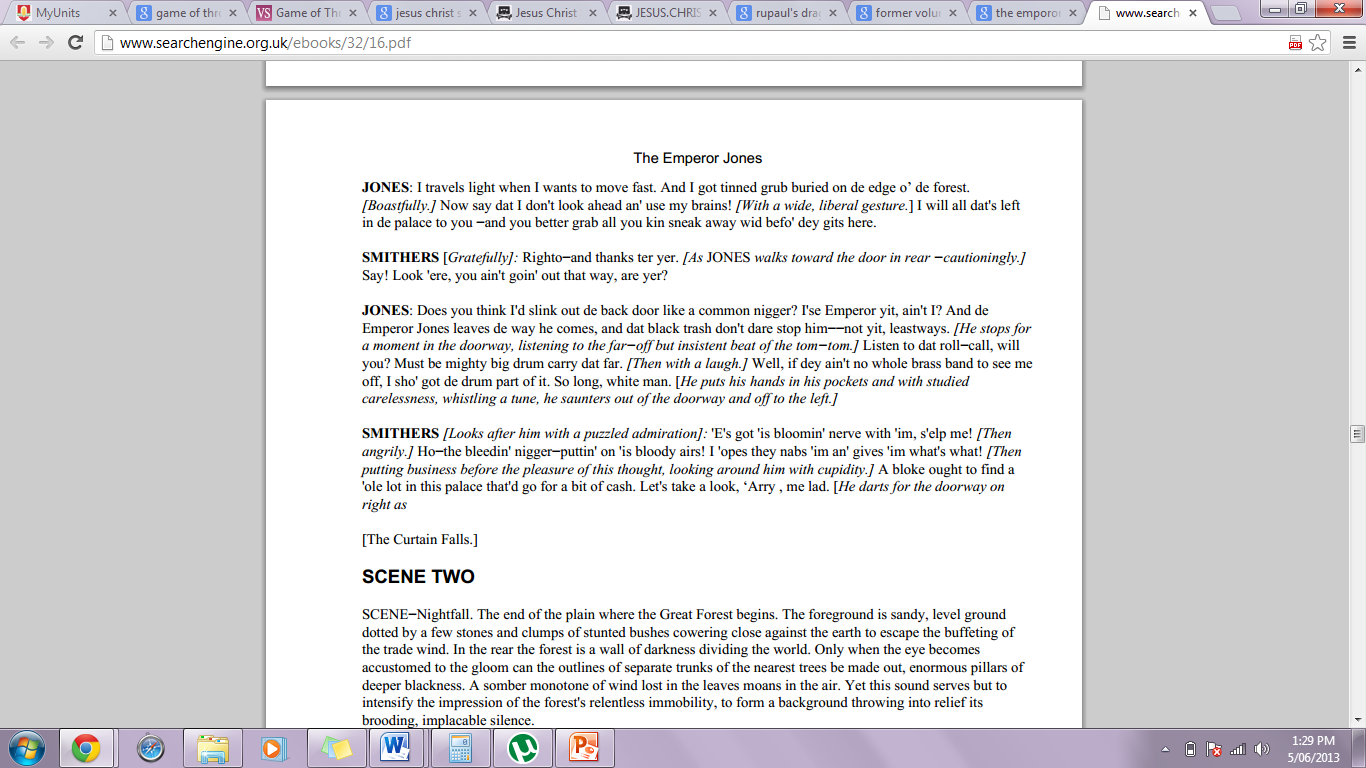
And so it begins. My blank (very well made) canvas.

Found this in my notes, I think this is a great description of where things stood at this stage and where things would take off from: *“At this stage I have so many ideas. I know that my take on this script will be dark and dreamlike in design. I can’t help but think of the action as a nightmare in a literal sense of it all being in Jones’s head.”*

#2 

Big inspiration number 1: fabric

I am seeing fabric, fabric and more fabric. I think fabric has wonderful opportunity to create the nightmare qualities I want for my design. If I can find the right type of fabric I imagine fabric flats that can be used for a silhouette (somewhat seen above), lighting, projection, and also used for impression where people can press hands or bodies into the flat to create an eerie presence.

#3

I have found it! This is the part of the script that has defined my design. I have already recognised I want to explore the surrealism and the nightmare qualities of the scenes 2-7. I have interpreted this part of the script to be where Jones gives up fighting, he is done with running and is not going to leave the palace he fought so hard for. ‘So long, white man’ is Jones recognising he doesn’t need to prove himself or answer to the white man anymore. As hard as he has tried to deny his heritage it is all he is left with in the nightmare to follow.

#4 

### The [Pièce de résistance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pi%C3%A8ce_de_r%C3%A9sistance), my silver bullet. I realised that I need I want fabric flats, one for each fear. However I wanted one of those to be a silver material. One of the things discussed in the beginning of the scene is the silver bullet that is the only weapon that could defeat Jones. This is a story Jones has projected so much and built his power on, but is also the source of his imminent downfall. From this I have decided to have this silver fabric dominating the design.

### #5

### When searching the internet for items for my moodboard I came across this gem. This staircase was an idea I explored for a little while to climb up to the throne. I want the throne to be a large part of my design and I love the idea of it being a climb to the power of the throne. While this is not something I ended up with, it did help me get to the throne I ended up with.

### #6

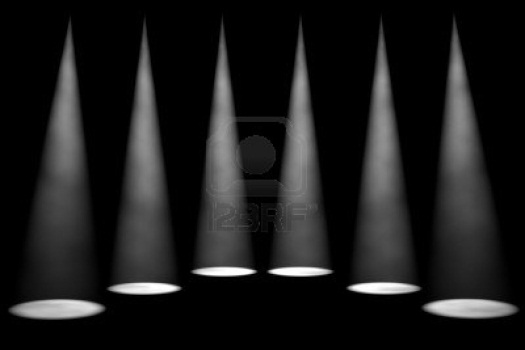
The floating throne was another big moment in my design. One of the main themes of this play is power and a throne gives so much opportunity to play with this idea. I have decided to have a throne suspended in the sea of silver. At the beginning of the play Jones is sitting on the thrown suspended in mid-air, untouchable in the way he has built himself up; the thrown is suspended in a sea of silver that both protects and traps Jones. At Smither’s exit in scene one the thrown will tip and jones will fall to the ground and spend the rest of the play trying to work his way back up to the comfortable place he was in before Smithers arrived.

#7 

Things change shape. I feel this image is worth showing because I had nothing to do with it. Serge pushed my design on a better path by returning my silver sheet to the square it started as, instead of the triangle it became. I think that this looks so much more powerful and effective than it did as a triangle shape.

#8 

While this appears in image 7 it is a different inspiration and key part of my design to discuss. Throughout this construction and the unit in general, I was focusing on the design for the looks and the meaning and not the functionality. Again, with help from the master my throne became something that really works and also fits in with the imagery of the rest of my piece with the framing.

#9 

This is another image that appeared when looking for my mood board. It was one that stood out because it suited the mood of my piece, it had six spots and I was planning on 6 fabric flats. I have put this here for two reasons. Firstly because it was around this point we began exploring lighting and I fell in love with my design again, but also because I came across this picture when putting together my presentation. Seeing this image, one that tied in so well to my initial concept, next to an image of my finished and lit design that had grown so much from that early concept was a wonderful feeling and a great revelation of the design journey.

#10 

The last picture I took of my set just after the lit photos had been taken. We had not taken any photos of this state of my set, the potential ending where the flats that represented the structure and stability of the palace and Jones’s façade have been scattered and brought down in Jones’s final moments and attempt to regain his safety and power on the throne. This is an important image to me as while it is not very well executed it shows the progression of my design through to the end of the show and ties in completely with my left field interpretation.